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NAVY MEDICINE IN FOCUS

I AM NAVY MEDICINE

BY VJOHNSON – FEBRUARY 5, 2015

POSTED IN: I AM NAVY MEDICINE

I am a Hospital Corpsman First Class in the greatest branch in the uniformed services ... the U.S Navy!

I joined the Navy June 14, 2001 right out of high school in Henderson, North Carolina. Joining the Navy was not in my initial plans. I was working at Subway, happy and content with the job I was doing. I had planned to attend community college after graduation but had no idea that I would walk into a recruiter's office with my sister and walk out in the Navy.



After speaking with the recruiter, he basically asked me "what do you want to be when you grow up", I said "a doctor!" He said, "I got the perfect rate for you", a "Hospital Corpsman!" I heard hospital, so I knew it had to be something close to medical. After boot camp, and HM "Apprentice" School, my first duty station was Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune, NC in 2002. I have always had a fascination with x-ray, so while there I was given an opportunity to work in Radiology. Learning through on-the-job (OJT) training, and exceeding all expectations as a corpsman, I was asked if I would like to attend Basic Radiology School in San Diego, CA.

I left for school in June 2004 and graduated in August 2004. My second duty station was USS Shreveport (LPD-12), Norfolk Virginia. I had an adventurous two-year tour on the ship, obtaining my Enlisted Surface Warfare (ESWS) qualification, as well as, completing a Mediterranean Cruise visiting countries such as Spain, Malta, and so on. After my tour of duty on the ship, I had the opportunity to attend advanced radiography school down the road in Portsmouth Va. Attending Adv. X-ray School gave me the ability to enhance and develop my skills as a tech, learning the details behind why/how x-ray images are developed.

I graduated school in 2007 after 13 months and headed to Naples Italy. While in Italy, I had the opportunity to travel all over Europe visiting other countries like England, Greece, Germany, France, Switzerland, and Austria. Spending 3 years in Italy, I left therefor deployment to Kuwait/Afghanistan for 1 year, returning at the end of 2011. With that adventure coming to an end, I selected orders to the 7th fleet, the Forward Deployed Navy! On board the USS Essex (LHD-2) and USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD-6) in Sasebo, Japan I obtained my Enlisted Aviation Warfare (EAWs) qualification and we deployed all over the 7th fleet, visiting Malaysia, Philippines, Japan Islands, and Australia.



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I left Japan in February 2014, en route to my current duty station at Naval Health Clinic, Cherry Point as the Command Career Counselor. I have the absolute pleasure of developing and guiding the careers of our future Naval leaders. If I had to choose a certain point in my career thus far I considered the best, it would be impossible. Every adventure or event I have been apart of has been a memorable moment.

My name is Michael L. Harris and I Am Navy Medicine!



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